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DOCUMENTS

Senate Subcommittee Reports On AF Operations in SE Asia

A Senate Preparedness Investigating Subcommittee report on "U.S. Air Force Tactical Air Operations in Southeast Asia" praises the Air Force for its responsiveness to rapidly rising requirements in SEA.

The report, released March 27, includes statements by the Department of Defense.

Commenting on the subcommittee's report that tactical air warfare in SEA has made increasingly heavy demands upon available manpower and material resources, DOD noted:

"The Air Force provides resources to the SEA theater from its worldwide assets, not just from within Pacific Air Forces."

DOD further emphasized that Air Force units are stationed in the Pacific for the express purpose of being able to respond immediately to aggression in that area.

DOD Comments

Replying to other statements by the subcommittee, DOD commented:

- Attrition rates in SEA, far from increasing, have in fact decreased significantly during the period covered in this report.
- Aircraft production has exceeded aircraft losses since fiscal year 1965.
- The losses incurred over North Vietnam, though low in terms of losses per thousand sorties, are large in number because of the very large number of sorties flown (about 45,000 Air Force attack sorties alone in North Vietnam in calendar year 1966). The losses must be viewed in light of the cost to the enemy, as well as in terms of the lives saved in South Vietnam, due to the effectiveness of the air interdiction campaign.

Second of Six Reports

The report is the second of six, following visits to and inspections in South Vietnam and the Pacific area by subcommittee members and staff during October-December 1966. The first report dealt with the Army.

Referring to USAF tactical air forces in the Pacific, the subcommittee noted: "Many improvements and advances were accomplished during 1966. However, many problems remain."

VIETNAM VISITOR—United States Ambassador to the United Nations Arthur Goldberg (left) is accompanied by Lt. Col. William R. Richardson, Commander, 3rd Battalion, 39th Infantry, during a tour of the village of Rach Kien in South Vietnam. Ambassador Goldberg spoke to Rach Kien school children and witnessed a 9th Infantry Division MEDCAP operation before departing the village to continue his tour of Southeast Asia.

DOD Estimates Home-Buying Costs Related to Base Closure Actions

About 12,980 military personnel and 32,370 civilian employees are estimated to be eligible to sell their homes to Defense Department because of base closures as of Dec. 31, 1967.

A DOD official gave the figures in Congressional testimony in late March and estimated an additional 8,500 military men and 20,000 civilians will establish eligibility for assistance by June 30 this year.

Public Law 89-754, enacted Nov. 3, 1966, authorizes the Secretary of Defense to buy one and two-family dwellings occupied by military or civil service owners at time of base closure subsequent to Nov. 1, 1964.

DOD says prospective claimants can obtain an information brochure on the program from their respective military or civilian personnel officers, who must review all applications and certify eligibility before claims are forwarded to a central office.

DOD estimates net cost of this program at $49.8 million, including $11 million in FY67, with $27 million more projected for FY68.

Washington Memos

NATO'S NUCLEAR PLANNING Group meets in Washington April 6-7 with the Defense Ministers of seven countries participating. Nations expected to attend are Canada, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the U.S.

COMMANDER, AIR FORCE Systems Command, Gen. James Ferguson, has announced reassignment of Maj. Gen. Vincent G. Huston to Systems Command headquarters, Andrews AFB, Md., as Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations. Maj. Gen. David M. Jones, presently Deputy Associate Administrator for Manned Space Flight for NASA, will replace Gen. Huston as commander, Air Force Eastern Test Range, Patrick AFB, Fla.

NAVAL AIR SYSTEM Command is evaluating two new flight garments. Torso Restraint Assembly with Integrated Flotation (TRAIF) is intended primarily for use in ejection seat aircraft. Second suit, called FSIS, incorporates survival vest and life preserver into a summer flying coverall.

DURING ONE YEAR period 73 soldiers in Vietnam received direct second lieutenant appointment, USAR, with concurrent call to active duty. Appointment authority was delegated to Commanding General, U.S. Army, Vietnam, Feb. 9, 1966. Breakdown, by branch, is 35 Infantry, 15 Artillery, 10 Transportation Corps, 6 Signal Corps, 4 Engineer and 3 Armor.

AIR FORCE Brig. Gen. William W. Wilcox will become Civil Air Patrol national commander May 1, succeeding Col. Joe L. Mason, CAP commander since 1964, who retires May 31. Gen. Wilcox is currently commander of Strategic Air Command's 19th Air Division at Carswell AFB, Texas.

DR. CHESTER M. ALTER, University of Denver chancellor, has been elected Air University Board of Visitors' chairman at Maxwell AFB, Ala. Dr. Alter succeeds Dr. John C. Warner, who held the post for three years.

NAVY LCDR NORMAN E. Griggs will become sixth captain of USS Nautilus, world's first nuclear powered ship, in change of command ceremonies at New London, Conn., April 3. LCdr. Griggs will relieve Cdr. Francis C. Fogarty, who has commanded Nautilus since October 1963.

A BOOT THAT will be replaced instead of repaired when it wears out has been adopted by Army to eventually take place of present-day combat boot. One-piece sole and heel is vulcanized and molded directly to the upper leather part, doing away with stitches and nails in the lower construction.

FOR SECOND TIME in history of Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Weapons Employment Course at Marine Corps Schools, Quantico, Va., a student has graduated with a perfect score. Capt. David E. Vowell achieved perfect 100 percent on all tests. Following graduation, Capt. Vowell was assigned to Third Marine Division in Vietnam.

BRIEFING DESCRIBING Army Survival Measures Program, counterpart to National Civil Defense Program, is being distributed throughout Continental Army Command. Importance of ASMP is outlined, showing need to provide defensive protection for personnel working and/or living on a military installation.

ARMY AIR DEFENSE School, Ft. Bliss, Tex., will celebrate its 143rd anniversary April 5 as oldest service school in U.S. Army. School traces its beginning back to Artillery Corps for Instruction (later named Coast Artillery School) established at Ft. Monroe, Va., on April 5, 1824.

AREA BUYING COMMAND has been established by 12th Naval Supply Center at Oakland, Calif., to exercise technical direction over field purchasing offices. ABC is a test to see if a headquarters' function can be performed better closer to field purchasing activities and customers.

ARMY RECEIVED 43,877 suggestions in first half FY67. Approximately one out of every four was adopted. Cash awards amounted to $468,573, with first-year tangible benefits totaling $13.5 million.

NAVY HAS FORMED new Naval Ship Research and Development Center by consolidating two existing facilities, the Navy Marine Engineering Laboratory at Annapolis and the David Taylor Model Basin at Carderock, Md. Merger was made to give Navy single research and development center to work on ship structural and propulsion concepts on total ship basis.

FREEDOM SHRINE, consisting of 28 replicas of historic American documents, was presented to Maj. Gen. Lewis J. Fields, base commander, Camp Pendleton, Calif., by Oceanside National Exchange Club. Presentation marked 25th anniversary of acquisition by Navy Department of land now comprising Camp Pendleton.

QUARTERMASTER SCHOOL, Ft. Lee, Va., has developed a Civilian Employee Training Program for educational specialists. Program was established to attract, develop and retain civilian manpower needed to meet Army's continuing and future staffing requirements in education specialist field.

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Army Study Group Completes Warrant Officer Examination

The Army's warrant officer study group has completed its examination and the Army Chief of Staff has approved major features including "below zone" promotions to CWO-3 and CWO-4.

This promotion feature eliminates inequities in existing pay opportunities. Commissioned officers are authorized below the zone consideration and enlisted personnel have the proficiency pay system.

Other approved features include setting up a branch to provide long range career planning. This will be done in the Office of the Executive for Career Planning, Officer Personnel Directorate.

Warrant officer management, however, will continue to be controlled by the career branches, including the Aviation Warrant Officer Branch.

Increased schooling opportunities were also approved. A systemized program for career progression will be developed, including civil schooling in some cases.

An orientation course for newly appointed non-aviation warrant officers is to be established to help warrant officers in the transition from enlisted to warrant officer status.

The military occupational specialty (MOS) will also be modified to provide more accurate identification of skills and better management and use of personnel.

Members of the study group also examined the possibility of creating additional pay grades, CWO-5 and CWO-6. This feature has not been approved, an official said, since it needs further examination.

Air National Guard Praised For Voluntary Military Effort

Achievements of the Air National Guard without mobilization have enabled the Air Force to maintain and improve its military position in Southeast Asia, according to Gen. John P. McConnell.

The Air Force Chief of Staff told the Air National Guard Commanders' Conference that increasing demands on the use of airpower to uphold this country's national interests "will make even more important the role which you perform in support of our active forces.

"By fulfilling a major portion of the Air Defense Command's runway alert responsibility you have bolstered significantly the strategic aerospace force that we employ in deterring nuclear war."

The general also cited "outstanding work" of the Guard in aeromedical evacuation and other airlift operations.

He explained that another major dividend on the high state of readiness maintained by Guard squadrons has been the support of Air Force participation in joint air-ground exercises.

LOGGING OUT—Capt. Willard L. Nyburg, USN, makes his last entry in the ship's log before turning it over to Capt. Benjamin C. Tate. Captain Tate relieved Capt. Nyburg as Commanding Officer of the antisubmarine aircraft carrier USS Kearsarge at Long Beach, Calif., March 24.

AF Pipeline Connection Program Saves $50 Million in 12 Years

An Air Force pipeline connection program has reduced transportation costs by about $50 million in 12 years of operation. The annual reduction is about $6.5 million.

Fifty air force bases are now provided pipeline connections by the commercial common carrier industry. Connections are made when such logistics support is warranted by the quantities of aviation fuel consumed, or where the base is located close to an existing commercial pipeline system or other source of supply.

The connections are provided by common carriers when their analysis of future requirements indicates that pipeline service is economically feasible.

Through-Plane Cargo Service To RVN Slated for Kelly AFB, Tex.

On April 1, the Air Force plans through-plane cargo service from Kelly AFB, Tex., to Cam Ranh Bay and Da Nang Air Bases in South Vietnam.

Daily cargo flights now depart Kelly for Udorn, Bangkok and Korat bases in Thailand.

Travis AFB, Calif., has long been the focal point for both passenger and cargo traffic. Passengers and cargo are also processed through Norton AFB, Calif., McChord AFB, Wash., and McGuire AFB, N.J. Other cargo flights originate at Dover AFB, Del., and Charleston AFB, S.C.

Army Researchers Working On Blood-Stopping Spray

Army researchers are developing a liquid adhesive that can be sprayed on human organs such as the liver or kidney as a blood-stopping agent that may someday replace the necessity for stitching up wounds.

A spray gun for this purpose was designed and built at the Army Medical Biochemical Research Laboratory at Forest Glen, Md. By spraying, the amount of adhesive is controlled, permitting broad surface-area coverage per volume of adhesive.

Another step to improve the adhesive application is a spray-on device like women use for hair spray, under current evaluation at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research.

One problem of the adhesive compounds is their toxicity. The tissue adhesive — methyl cyanoacrylate — was proved too toxic for clinical use after adequate testing.

A compound series of higher molecular weight, such as n-butyl alpha cyanoacrylate, are less toxic to the tissues and show promise.

AF Squadron in Okinawa Wins Daedalian Trophy

The 18th Tactical Fighter Wing, Kadena AB, Okinawa, has been selected winner of the 1966 Daedalian Maintenance Trophy.

The award will be presented at the annual meeting of the Daedalians at Kelly AFB, Tex., April 29.

It is one of three awards presented by the Order of the Daedalians, an organization founded by World War I pilots.

The 18th Wing was selected for its outstanding support of forward operating bases in Southeast Asia while maintaining operational readiness in support of F-105 and RF-101 aircraft.

Recipients of Flight Safety and Maintenance and Supply Effectiveness Trophies will be announced later.

HAPPY LANDING—Capt. James S. Walbridge, USAF, smiles as he departs an HH-3E Jolly Green Giant rescue helicopter after being picked up in enemy territory. Downed by enemy ground fire west of Dong Hoi, Vietnam, the captain remained on the ground for one and one-half hours before being rescued.

Army to Deactivate Davy Crockett Elements

Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara has announced that Army will deactivate Davy Crockett elements in all units, worldwide, which have nuclear capable 155-millimeter howitzer artillery units assigned.

This action is expected to be completed by June 30.

Davy Crockett units will be retained where they are required for airborne or airmobile division support, and in other such units without organic 155-mm howitzer units.

Davy Crockett was added to the nuclear arsenal in 1961.

A light, mobile, rapid-response weapon that could deliver low yield nuclear fire close-in to friendly troops, the Davy Crockett was considered more vulnerable to enemy counter fire than desired.

The 155-mm, with its greater range and flexibility, is less vulnerable and can be used for either conventional or nuclear fires.

Navy to Add 26 Schools To Junior ROTC Program

Navy is expanding its junior ROTC program next September, adding 26 high schools across the nation and bringing the total participating junior Naval and Marine Corps ROTC schools to 42.

Last September the first 16 schools were selected.

Navy Secretary Paul H. Nitze said selection of the schools was based on their high academic standards, their ability to support a NJROTC unit and their enthusiasm and interest in providing instruction in Naval Science.

New Rescue Helicopter Completes Initial Flight

The largest and fastest helicopter scheduled for use by the Air Force's Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Service has completed its initial flight at Stratford, Conn.

The helicopter, Sikorsky's HH-53B, has a top speed of 195 m.p.m., and a range in excess of 650 miles without refueling. It will have the capability of inflight refueling by HC-130P Hercules tankers.

An earlier version of the H-53 series, the CH-53A, is being used by the Marine Corps in Vietnam as a heavy-lift transport helicopter. Air Force officials said the new HH-53B is expected to enhance the ARRS's rescue and recovery mission.

School for First Sergeants Starts May 1 at March AFB

A school for first sergeants—first of its kind in the Air Force—is scheduled to begin classes May 1 at March AFB, Calif.

The Fifteenth Air Force school will initially conduct two classes of 40 first sergeants each.

In addition to military training, drill and ceremonies, courses will be presented in advanced management, personnel counseling, oral and written communications and military justice.

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